

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 LONDON 01001 191819Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-02
/060 W

-----200429Z 100247 /70

R 191809Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9659
INFO AMCONSUL MUNICH
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY ROME

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LONDON 01001

E. O. 11652:NA
TAGS: PINT. SOPN, CZ, UK
SUBJECT: "MORNING STAR" ON CHARTER 77

1. AS WAS TO BE EXPECTED, LONDON QUALITY PRESS IS
GIVING EXTENSIVE COVERAGE TO STORIES OF ARREST AND
HARASSMENT OF "CHARTER 77" SIGNATORIES IN PRAGUE.

2. PERHAPS EVEN MORE SIGNIFICANT IS VIGOROUSLY ANTI-
CZECHOSLOVAK GOVERNMENT POSITION TAKEN BY BRITISH
COMMUNIST PARTY'S "MORNING STAR." FOLLOWING IS FULL
TEXT OF EDITORIAL WHICH APPEARED IN "MORNING STAR" OF
JANUARY 19:

QUOTE: THE MORNING STAR IS GRAVELY CONCERNED BY THE
FACT THAT AFTER A CAMPAIGN OF HARASSMENT AGAINST
SIGNATORIES OF THE CHARTER 77 DECLARATION, FOUR
CZECHOSLOVAK CITIZENS HAVE BEEN ARRESTED.

IT IS DIFFICULT TO SEE HOW THE CHARTER ITSELF COULD
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 LONDON 01001 191819Z

BE REGARDED AS SUBVERSIVE GIVEN THAT IT CALLED FOR THE
OBSERVANCE OF THE UN DECLARATION ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND
THE CIVIL RIGHTS PROVISIONS IN THE HELSINKI AGREEMENT.

BUT THE SIGNATORIES HAVE ACTUALLY BEEN DENIED THE
POSSIBILITY OF EXPRESSING THEIR VIEWS PUBLICLY ON THE
ISSUES RAISED WITHIN CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

THE CZECHOSLOVAK AUTHORITIES HAVE MADE IT CLEAR

THAT NEITHER THE CHARTER NOR EVEN EXTRACTS WILL BE
PUBLISHED IN THE CZECHOSLOVAK PRESS.

YET WHEN THE SIGNATORIES SEEK OTHER MEANS OF
MAKING THEIR VIEWS KNOWN, INCLUDING THROUGH FOREIGN
NEWS AGENCIES, THEY ARE CONDEMNED. THIS IS AN
IMPOSSIBLE SITUATION.

FURTHERMORE, ALL THIS IS COMBINED WITH A PRESS
CAMPAIGN OF DENUNCIATIONS BY CZECHOSLOVAK WORKERS
WHO HAVE NOT EVEN READ THE DOCUMENT THEY ARE ATTACKING.

THIS IS NO WAY TO CONDUCT THE DEMOCRATIC DEBATE,
SO VITAL FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF SOCIALISM.

THE SAME GOES FOR THE ACCUSATIONS OF BEING "AGENTS
OF IMPERIALISM" LEVELLED AGAINST THE CHARTER 77
SIGNATORIES, SOME OF WHOM HAVE LONG RECORDS OF SERVICE
IN THE COMMUNIST MOVEMENT.

ABUSE AND THE LANGUAGE OF THE WITCH HUNT ARE NO
SUBSTITUTE FOR POLITICAL ARGUMENTATION.

AS A CONSISTENT FRIEND OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK
SOCIALIST REPUBLIC, THE MORNING STAR EXPRESSES THE
HOPE THAT THE CZECHOSLOVAK AUTHORITIES WILL PUT AN
END TO THE HARASSMENT OF THE CHARTER 77 SIGNATORIES,
AND ENABLE THE VIEWS EXPRESSED IN THE CHARTER TO BE
DEBATED FREELY IN A CALM AND RELAXED ATMOSPHERE.
UNQUOTE.

3. SAME ISSUE OF "MORNING STAR" CARRIES AN ARTICLE
WHICH CLAIMS THAT JOSEFA SLANSKA, WIDOW OF CPCZ
GENERAL SECRETARY RUDOLF SLANSKY WHO WAS PURGED AND
EXECUTED IN 1952 AND POSTHUMOUSLY REHABILITATED IN
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 LONDON 01001 191819Z

1963, HAS SENT AN APPEAL TO HUSAK TO END THE HARASS-
MENT OF THE "CHARTER 77" SIGNATORIES. "MORNING STAR"
QUOTES SLANSKA AS TELLING HUSAK, "THE CAMPAIGN WAGED
IN THESE DAYS AGAINST THE SIGNATORIES OF CHARTER 77
INEVITABLY REMINDS ONE OF THE 1950S WHEN IT WAS
POSSIBLE TO CONDEMN ANYBODY FOR ANYTHING, WHEN UNDER
THE SLOGAN 'COMRADES TRUST THE PARTY' OVER 10,000
RESOLUTIONS WERE DEMANDING THE DEATH PENALTY,
INCLUDING FOR YOU."

4. THIS IS ONE ISSUE OF "MORNING STAR" WHICH WE ARE
WILLING TO BET WILL NOT BE ON THE PNS NEWSSTANDS IN
PRAGUE.

ARMSTRONG

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, POLITICAL REPRESSION, HUMAN RIGHTS, DOCUMENTS, COMMUNISTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 19-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977LONDON01001
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770020-1140
Format: TEL
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770137/aaaabgqv.tel
Line Count: 112
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: daeba2d4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3560563
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: \"MORNING STAR\" ON CHARTER 77
TAGS: PINT, SOPN, SHUM, CZ, UK, MORNING STAR
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/daeba2d4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009